

804.4.0

C.R. 54

# RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE

## YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1948.

---

BLAYDON.  
R. BEVERIDGE & Co., PRINTERS, TYNE STREET.  
1949.



**RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**  
FOR THE  
**YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1948.**



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30050030>

**Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

---

*Medical Officer of Health—*

H. E. DUNSTAN, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P.

*Sanitary Inspector—*

EDWIN JOICEY, F.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.  
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Ryton Tower,  
Ryton.  
September, 1949.

To The Chairman and Members of the  
Ryton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The general health of the district continues to be maintained at a satisfactory level, and there have been no serious outbreaks of any of the infectious diseases group. There was, however, a sharp rise in the number of cases of ringworm in school children. This situation has been dealt with by the School Medical Services.

The year has been notable by the introduction of the National Health Service, under which the County Council is the Local Health Authority.

Housing progress has been maintained and, with the completion of the 104 houses on the Park Field at the end of the year, it is now possible to assess the amenities of that estate. These tenants are now well housed in an attractive and well laid out group of dwellings; there is no doubt that such an environment is reflected in the general well-being and happiness of the occupants. Much, however, remains to be done to complete the housing requirements of the district.

I have again to record my appreciation of the Sanitary Inspector's willing and constant help, both in the administration of the Health Services of the district and the compiling of this report. My thanks are also due to the other Council Officials for their valued help in many ways.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. DUNSTAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

---

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The acreage remains at 5,145.

Population. According to 1931 Census was 14,204.

Population — Estimated ... .. 13,730.

Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31st December, 1948, according to rate books = 3,854.

Rateable Value (at 1st October, 1948) = £55,423.

Sum Represented by Penny Rate (1st April, 1948)  
= £208/2/1

**Physical Features and General Character of the Area.** The Ryton Urban District is situated on the north-west extremity of the county and is bounded on the north by the Tyne, on the south and east by tributaries of the river known as the local burns, the Barlow Burn and the Blaydon Burn which separate it from the Blaydon Urban District, and on the west by the Stanley Burn which forms the boundary between Ryton Urban District and the County of Northumberland.

The Urban District is divided into four wards, named Crookhill, Ryton, Crawcrook and Ryton Woodside. The Ryton and Crawcrook wards although much lower than the Greenside (600 ft.) and the country to the south, stand well above the level of the Tyne which is about a mile to the north of Crawcrook and about half a mile north of Ryton, and have excellent natural drainage. The only low-lying parts of the district are the areas near to the river at Clara Vale and at Ryton Haughs where there are two rows of houses near Newburn Bridge.

The greater part of this district is agricultural. There is One Brick Yard and there are a few Stone, Sand and Gravel Quarries. Most of the population is employed at the Collieries of which there are five, situated at Greenside, Clara Vale, Bar-moor, Stargate and Addison.

The soil is clay and sand.

**Births.** The total number of live births was 217, of which 107 were males and 110 females, a decrease on last year of 48. The number of births for 1947 was 265 and for 1946 was 252. Of the total live births 14 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population for the year, i.e., the excess of the births over deaths, was 69 as against the natural increase for the previous year of 100.

THE LIVE BIRTH RATE for the year was 15.80 as against that of 19.49 for 1947. This was lower than the rate for both for the Administrative County of (20.0) and for England and Wales (17.9). All these rates show a comparable decrease.

**Deaths.** The total number of deaths was 148, comprising 87 males and 61 females. This corresponds to an annual death rate of 10.77 that for the administrative county being 11.1 and that for England and Wales, 10.8. The number of deaths in 1947 was 165, giving a death rate of 12.14.

**Infantile Deaths.** The number of deaths registered under one year was 13, 11 males and 2 females. The infantile death rate was 59, that of the county 47, and that of England and Wales 34.

A graph comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County and England and Wales, is appended. (Page 9).

**Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.** None..

**Respiratory Diseases.** There were 2 deaths from pneumonia, 12 from bronchitis and 1 from other respiratory making in all 15 deaths due to <sup>from</sup>respiratory diseases other than phthisis. This gives a death rate ~~in~~<sup>of</sup> respiratory diseases of 1.09.

**Tuberculosis.** Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 4 deaths as compared with 11 in 1947 representing a Phthisis mortality of 0.29. There was one death from other tubercular disease giving a non-pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.07.

The total tuberculosis mortality was therefore 0.36 as compared with the county rate of 0.59.

**Cancer.** Deaths due to cancer numbered 22 compared with 27 during 1947. 14 were males and 8 females, giving a death rate of 1.60.

**Heart Disease** caused 44 deaths, intracranial vascular lesions caused 20 deaths and other diseases of the circulatory system caused 7 deaths. Making in all 71 deaths from diseases of the cardio-vascular system. This total represents a death rate of 5.17.



## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births Legitimate	203	101	102	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population <b>15.80.</b>
Illegitimate	14	6	8	
Still Births Legitimate	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births <b>36.86.</b>
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths ... ..	148	87	61	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population <b>10.77.</b>

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	59
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ... ..	55.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ... ..	71
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	22
„ Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	1

### Nursing and Ambulance Services.

The nursing services both general and maternity and also the ambulance services are now administered by the County Council.

**Laboratory Work.** This is now carried out by the Central Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle, to which specimens may be sent and examined free of charge to the patient or practitioner. (See table on page 11.)

### Hospital Provision.

**Infectious Diseases.** The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of this district.

During the year 31 cases were admitted from the Ryton area.

**General.** The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of Medical and Surgical cases from the Ryton area. It also provides a Convalescent Home for males and females at Castle Hill which is situated on the Western boundary of the district—114 beds are available.

**Midwifery and Gynaecology.** Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way either to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital or the gynaecological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle. Arrangements have now been made to send some emergency cases to Bensham General Hospital. A maternity and child welfare clinic provided by the County Council is held regularly in Ryton.

**Venereal Diseases.** The County has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at a special clinic at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**School Clinics.** These services are provided by the County Council.

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

During the year there were 200 cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and of these 140 were due to Measles, 7 Diphtheria, and 25 to Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of infectious diseases within the district can in no wise be deemed unsatisfactory.

**Enteric.**—None notified.

**Smallpox.**—No cases notified.

**Diphtheria.** 7 cases were notified, all of which were removed to hospital.

**Scarlet Fever.** 25 cases were notified, 21 of which were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. 11 cases were notified during 1947.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.** 2 cases were notified during the year.

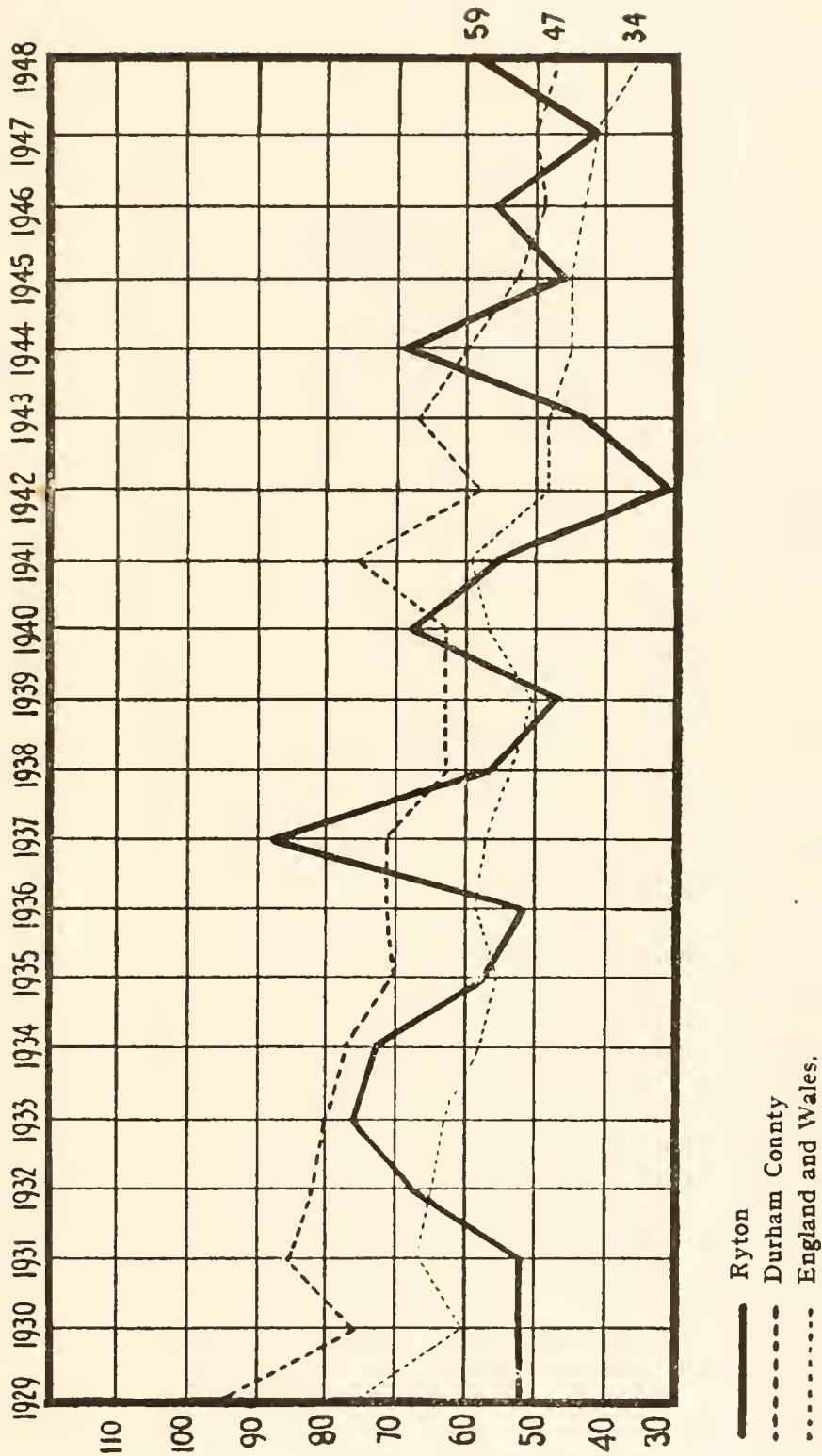
**Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.** 1 case notified.

**Erysipelas.** 4 cases were notified during the year as compared with 2 cases during 1947. No deaths.

**Measles.** 140 cases were notified, as compared with 105 the previous year. There were no deaths.

**Whooping Cough.** 14 cases were notified during the year: there were no deaths.

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rates of Ryton, Durham County, England and Wales since 1929.



## Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1	1							
5		1		1				
15	3	5		1		1		
25	3	2		1	1			1
35		2				1		
45	2		1		1			
55								
65 & upwa'ds								
Total	9	10	1	3	2	2		1

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

[illegible]

SWABS (THROAT, NASAL AND EAR)										SPUTUM					
Diphtheria (Culture)		Diphtheria (virulence)		Haemolytic Streptococci		Vincent's Angina		Organisms		Tuber- culosis		Tuber- culosis		Miscellan- eous	
No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Virulent	No. of Specimens	Virulent	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive
26	3			11	7	1	1			8	6	53	2		

\*These are tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria

†This section is comprised of examinations of (C.S. Fluid (including biological examinations for tuberculosis) ; Sputum for organisms ; Pus for organisms. Pleur I fluid ; Miscellaneous for material for pathogens, serum for agglutination for leptospira icterohæmorrhagiae.

# Prevalence of and control over Infectious diseases.

## Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

		Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over 65	Total	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...			1			9	11	3	1				25	21
Diphtheria	...	1				1		3		2				7	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...									1				1	
Pneumonia	...									2		1		3	1
Oph. Neon.	...	2												2	
Erysipelas	...											2	2	4	
Cerebro spinal Meningitis									1					1	1
Whooping Cough	...	4	1	1	2	2	4							14	
Measles	...	4	21	13	29	17	56							140	1
Food Poisoning	...									1		1		2	
Dysentery	...									1				1	

Grand Total 200

## Incidence of Principal Infectious Diseases since 1939

Year	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric		Measles		Whooping Cough	
	Cases Noti- fied	deaths	Cases Noti- fied	deaths	Cases Noti- fied	deaths	Cases Noti- fied	deaths	Cases Noti- fied	deaths
1939	23	—	19	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
1940	2	—	23	3	2	—	77	—	—	—
1941	11	—	11	—	—	—	92	—	41	—
1942	26	—	14	—	—	—	86	—	—	—
1943	21	—	12	—	1	—	26	—	1	—
1944	16	—	10	—	—	—	33	—	1	—
1945	12	—	20	1	—	—	106	1	2	—
1946	6	—	11	—	—	—	43	—	8	—
1947	11	—	2	—	—	—	105	—	10	—
1948	25	—	7	—	—	—	140	—	14	—

# TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in Ryton U.D., 1948.

Causes of Deaths.		Males	Females
All Causes	...	87	61
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	2	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	1	...
Influenza	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Ac : Polio-Myel: and polio-enceph	...	...	...
Ac : Inf. Enceph	...	...	...
Cancer of buc , cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	...	1	1
"    of stomach & duodenum	...	4	3
"    of breast	...	...	3
"    of all other sites	...	9	1
Diabetes	...	2	...
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	8	12
Heart disease	...	26	18
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	5	2
Bronchitis	...	8	4
Pneumonia	...	2	...
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	...	1	3
Nephritis	...	1	1
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...
Premature birth	...	...	...
Congenital mal: birth inj: infant: dis....	...	7	...
Suicide	...	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...
Other violent causes	...	1	...
All other causes	...	6	5
Live Births—			
Total	...	107	110
Legitimate	...	101	102
Illegitimate	...	6	8
Still Births—			
Total	...	4	4
Legitimate	...	4	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—			
Total	...	11	2
Legitimate	...	10	2
Illegitimate	...	1	...
Population...	...	13,730	
Comparability Factor..	...	Not available.	



## FACORIES ACT.      Part 1 of the Act.

### 1—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	19	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	34	19	1	—

### 2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient ..... 1.      Remedied.



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

The work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department during the year has been efficiently carried out, and the details will be found in the tabular statement appended.

**Water Supply.** The Water Supply is obtained from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water is of good quality, and the supply continuous and plentiful.

**Rivers and Streams.** No action taken.

**Drainage and Sewerage.** The sewerage system which was last structurally improved in 1928 is now being surveyed with a view to improvements and to meet the needs of the future.

All the sewage is discharged direct and untreated into the river Tyne by 3 main and 1 subsidiary outfalls.

**Roads and Streets.** A restricted amount of road repair has been carried out.

**Rodent Control (Infestation Order 1943).** Treatment of the sewers is carried out every six months for the destruction of rats.

**Closet Accommodation.** There are now in the district 4,087 water closets, 112 ash closets, and 19 ashpit privies.

**Scavenging.** The Council is directly responsible for the whole of the scavenging in the district. This is carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. Horses have been replaced by motor transport and, at the end of the year, one horse was in use for salvage collection and three motor vehicles for refuse collection and disposal. A new motor vehicle is on order, when this is delivered it is proposed to dispense with the remaining horse.

The majority of the houses are provided with dust bins which are emptied twice weekly if necessary. The others are emptied once a week. Refuse is disposed of by tipping (controlled) in old quarries and is also used for land reclamation.

During the year 333,778 receptacles were cleansed; the estimated weight of refuse removed is 7,557 tons.

**Salvage.** Salvage collection and its disposal have been actively carried out and the following table shows a comparison of the amounts collected since the scheme was put into operation :—

Year.	Waste Paper	Metals	Textiles	Bones
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1940	1023 $\frac{3}{4}$	1182 $\frac{1}{4}$	110 $\frac{1}{4}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
1941	1415	1491 $\frac{3}{4}$	157 $\frac{1}{2}$	79
1942	1533	1319 $\frac{1}{2}$	198 $\frac{1}{4}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$
1943	1180 $\frac{1}{2}$	532 $\frac{3}{4}$	164 $\frac{1}{4}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
1944	867 $\frac{3}{4}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	165 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{3}{4}$
1945	821 $\frac{1}{4}$	100	62	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
1946	660 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	46	31
1947	839 $\frac{1}{2}$	196 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{4}$
1948	1147	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	42	36 $\frac{1}{2}$

**The Disinfection of Houses.** During the year 31 houses have been disinfected. The bedding and clothes of the persons removed to the Conjoint Hospital are taken there and disinfected by steam. In other cases their cleansing is carried out at home.

In all cases of infectious disease disinfectants are supplied by the Council free of charge.

**Shops and Offices.** It has not been necessary to take any statutory action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**Camping Sites.** Two sites in the area, one on each bank of the river were periodically used for Camping over short periods during the year. The sites are not licenced.

The camps are regularly inspected when in use.

#### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Number of houses:

		Found to be Infested			Disinfested
Council Houses	...	—	...	...	—
Other Houses	...	11	...	...	11

Instructions regarding disinfecting and cleansing are given and periodic visits made to infested houses until they are judged clean. The work is carried out by the tenants, and where property is unoccupied by the owners. Fluid insecticide is supplied by the Council and pressure sprays are issued on loan.

It has been found that the active co-operation of the tenants of houses is necessary to ensure thorough disinfection, as in most cases several applications of insecticide are required.

No action is taken by the Council to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before their removal to Council Houses.

**Cinemas.** There are two in the area, both of which are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

**Schools.** The schools are modern with good sanitary arrangements. A good water supply is provided.

**Recreation Grounds.** There have been no extensions.

## HOUSING.

All complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions and structural defects are investigated and appropriate action taken when necessary.

During the year the Council made good progress with the building of 108 houses on the Park Field Estate which are almost completed. A commencement has been made with the building of 104 houses at Greenside and it is hoped that, at an early date, it will be possible to commence building further houses at Crookhill and Crawcrook.

Demolition Orders have been made on nine houses and a Closing Order on one. There are a number of houses rapidly falling into a dilapidated condition, the tenants of which will require re-housing at an early date.

This being a mining area and the land subject to subsidence, the Council have had considerable difficulty in the selection of suitable sites for development.

The majority of the existing houses are of modern construction and most of them well-built; the new streets are well planned and there is practically no crowding of houses into confined yards and courts. In addition the

district enjoys the natural advantages of being situated on rising ground and in being surrounded by open country.

Since 1st January, 1920, there have been built—

745 houses by the Council.

658 houses by private enterprise.

Back to back houses at Addison are being gradually converted into through houses with bathrooms and hot water systems. Present conditions are holding up progress in the reconditioning of the remainder of this type of house elsewhere. Thirty back to back houses at Emmaville are being dismantled as material is required for other purposes.

**Overcrowding.** Reliable figures are not available owing to the movement of population as a result of the war.

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.** The whole of the cowsheds and dairies in the district are regularly inspected and are found to be kept in a reasonably clean condition.

**Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.** Six licences have been granted for the sale of Pasteurised Milk.

Four farms are producing "Accredited" milk, one of these is licensed to produce and bottle. Three farms are producing "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

**Food and Drugs.** The regulations under the sale of food and drugs, etc., are carried out by the County Council.

The inspection of places where food is prepared e.g., bakehouses, sausage-making, fish and chip shops, etc., takes place regularly. These are found to be kept clean and orderly.

**Meat Inspection.** There are 13 slaughter houses, of which five are licensed, the licences of the remainder have not been renewed as all slaughtering, with the exception of cases of emergency slaughter and the slaughter of cottagers pigs, are done outside the district. The retail butchers in the area have is central distribution point, but so far as practicable all meat is inspected before being removed to retail premises.

**Other Foods.** Systematic inspection of shops, stores, etc., where prepared foods, etc., are sold is carried out.

There are 3 bakeries in the district. These are frequently inspected. They are clean, orderly and up-to-date in their general arrangements.

# SUMMARY OF WORK done in the SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT during 1948

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	Gen. Remarks
Dwelling houses & Schools—				
Foul Conditions -	1	...		
Structural Defects -	53	4	52	
Overcrowding -	...	...	...	
Lodging-houses -	...	...	...	
Dairies, Milkshops -	...	...	...	
Cowsheds - - -	59	...	59	
Bakehouses -	...	...	...	
Slaughter-houses -	...	...	...	
Ashpits and Privies -	26	...	26	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	...	...	...	
Waterclosets -	15	4	15	
Defective Yard Paving -	3	...	3	
House Drainage—	...	...	...	
Defective Traps -	...	...	...	
No Disconnection from Sewers -	...	...	...	
Other Faults -	28	...	28	
Water Supply -	4	...	3	
Pigsties - -	...	...	...	
Animals Improperly Kept	4	...	4	
Smoke Nuisances - -	...	...	...	
Other Nuisances -	8	1	8	
Verminous Premises -	...	...	...	
Total -	201	9	198	
WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.				
Samples of Water taken for Analysis -	...	...		
"    "    condemned as unfit for use -	...	...		
Seizures of Unwholesome Food - -	-	*	*117 Certificates of surrender issued	
Convictions for selling or exposing Unwholesome Food -	...	...		
Samples of Food& Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...		
"    "    found Adulterated - -	-	-	...	
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE			No	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed			31	Steam Disinfected at Hospital
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease			31	
School do do -			..	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things - - -	-	-	...	
Convictions for do do do				
GENERAL.			No.	
Number of New Houses erected during year			76	
Number of such Houses occupied during year			76	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets -			...	
do do Water-closets -			2	
Ash-closets do do -			..	
Total number of Water-closets in District -			4087	
do Ash-closets do			112	
do Ash-pit privies do			19	







